Application No.: 10/630,265

Filed: July 30, 2003

Page 3

Amendments to the Claims:

1-21. (Canceled).

22. (Original) A method for building a disk stack for inclusion in a magnetic disk drive, the method comprising:

providing a spindle comprising first and second disk contacts; and

biasing an inner diameter of a stack of plural disks toward both the first disk contact and the second disk contact.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for building a disk stack for inclusion in a magnetic disk drive, the method comprising:

providing a spindle comprising a given outer diameter;

mounting on the spindle one two or more disks having inner sleeve-like openings with a given inner diameter slightly larger than the outer diameter of the spindle, longitudinal spacers providing spaces between pairs of adjacent disks mounted to the spindle along a portion of the length of the spindle;

concentrically aligning the disks in relation to the spindle[[,]] using lateral protrusions defining as the first disk contact and the second disk contact at least two lateral spacing points of contact and biasing a side of the spindle toward a corresponding part of an inner diameter of the one or more disks, whereby the outer diameter of the spindle and the inner diameter of the disks contact each other at the two lateral spacing points of contact.

- 24. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein the spindle is cylindrical.
- 25. (Original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the spacers comprise separate sleeve-like members having an inner diameter slightly larger than the outer diameter of the spindle.

Application No.: 10/630,265

Filed: July 30, 2003

Page 4

- 26. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein the spacers comprises rings.
- 27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein an outer surface of the spindle comprises two lateral protrusions protruding radially outwardly and extending longitudinally along the outer surface of the spindle, apex portions of the lateral protrusions emprising defining the two lateral spacing points of contact.
- 28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 27, wherein a distance an angle between the two lateral protrusions is 120°.
- 29. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 27, wherein a distance an angle between the two lateral protrusions is from 60° to 150°.
- 30. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 27, wherein a radial distance from a central longitudinal axis of the spindle to [[a]] the lateral spacing point of contact of each of the lateral protrusions is approximately equal to a radial distance from a central longitudinal axis of the disk to an inner diameter surface of the disk.
- 31. (Withdrawn Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the inner diameter <u>surface</u> of the disk stack comprises two lateral protrusions <u>that protrude</u> protruding radially inwardly, apex portions of the lateral protrusions <u>comprising defining</u> the two lateral spacing points of contact.
- 32. (Withdrawn Currently Amended) The method according to claim 31, wherein a distance an angle between the two lateral protrusions is 120°.
- 33. (Withdrawn Currently Amended) The method according to claim 31, wherein a distance an angle between the two lateral protrusions is from 60° to 150°.

Application No.: 10/630,265

Filed: July 30, 2003

Page 5

34. (Withdrawn - Original) The method according to claim 31, wherein a radial distance from a central longitudinal axis of the disks to a lateral spacing point of contact of each of the lateral protrusions is approximately equal to a radial distance from a central longitudinal axis of the spindle to the outer diameter of the spindle.

- 35. (Withdrawn Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the inner diameter <u>surface</u> of the disk stack comprises a disk lateral protrusion <u>that protrudes</u> protruding radially inwardly, an apex portion of the disk lateral protrusion <u>comprising defining</u> a first of the two lateral spacing points of contact, and wherein the outer surface of the spindle comprises a spindle lateral protrusion protruding radially outwardly and extending longitudinally along the outer surface of the spindle, an apex portion of the spindle lateral protrusion <u>comprising defining</u> a second of the two lateral spacing points of contact.
- 36. (Withdrawn Currently Amended) The method according to claim 35, wherein a distance an angle between the two lateral spacing points of contact is 120°.
- 37. (Withdrawn Currently Amended) The method according to claim 35, wherein a distance an angle between the two lateral protrusions is from 60° to 150°.
- 38. (Withdrawn Original) The method according to claim 35, wherein a radial distance from a central longitudinal axis of the spindle to the second lateral spacing point of contact is approximately equal to a radial distance from a central longitudinal axis of the disk to an inner diameter surface of the disk, and wherein a radial distance from a central longitudinal axis of the disk to the first lateral spacing point of contact is approximately equal to a radial distance from the central longitudinal axis of the spindle to the outer diameter surface of the spindle.
- 39. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein the biasing comprises holding the spindle at an angle.

Application No.: 10/630,265

Filed: July 30, 2003

Page 6

- 40. (Original) The method according to claim 39, wherein the angle is 45° in relation to horizontal.
- 41. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein the biasing comprises holding the spindle at an angle.
- 42. (Original) The method according to claim 41, wherein the angle is 45° in relation to horizontal.
- 43. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein the biasing comprises holding the spindle vertically and pushing the disks laterally toward the spindle.
- 44. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein at least one of an outer surface of the spindle and the inner diameter surface of the disk stack comprises at least two lateral protrusions that each protrude radially, apex portions of the lateral protrusions defining the lateral spacing points of contact.
- 45. (New) The method according to claim 44, wherein an angle between two adjacent ones of the lateral protrusions is 120°.
- 46. (New) The method according to claim 44, wherein an angle between two adjacent ones of the lateral protrusions is from 60° to 150°.
- 47. (New) The method according to claim 44, wherein a radial distance from a central longitudinal axis of the spindle to the lateral spacing point of contact of each of the lateral protrusions is approximately equal to a radial distance from a central longitudinal axis of the disk to an inner diameter surface of the disk.